

**FISH & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT STANDARDS FOR IDENTIFYING,
MAPPING, AND DOCUMENTING SIGNIFICANT NATURAL
COMMUNITIES, VERNAL POOLS, AND RARE PLANT AND ANIMAL
SPECIES FOR USE VALUE APPRAISAL (UVA) ENROLLMENT AS
ECOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT TREATMENT AREAS (ESTAS)**

The following information should be provided to Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department's Nongame and Natural Heritage Program (NNHP) by the landowner or their consultant. NNHP staff will respond to the landowner/consultant and to the County Forester with a form verifying (or questioning) the presence of the natural community, vernal pool, or rare species and providing management recommendations (see Appendix S6). Survey forms for natural communities, rare plants, rare animals, and vernal pools are available here:

http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/wildlife_nongame.cfm

Natural Communities – information to be submitted to Nongame and Natural Heritage Program in FWD for each natural community to be enrolled as an ESTA (See Appendix S1 – Natural Community Survey Form). Eric Sorenson (241-3714), 103 South Main Street, 10 South, Waterbury, VT 05671-0501; eric.sorenson@state.vt.us

- Location map clearly showing the location of the UVA property involved.
- Orthophoto base map or GIS shapefile accurately identifying the boundary of the significant natural community.
- Natural Community Survey Form (April 2009). This includes information on landowner, surveyor, physical aspects of the site, a description of the natural community, natural community ranking, and proposed management of the natural community to be included in the UVA plan. Form available.
- Rectangular plot to document natural community. 20m x 20m for forested communities. Location of plot identified on orthophoto or by GPS. Standard plot form for recording physical and biological data. Plots are required for natural communities that are not currently identified and mapped by NNHP – they are not required for those sites already mapped by NNHP (See Appendix D5 – Vermont Quantitative Community Characterization Form).

Vernal Pools – information to be submitted to Nongame and Natural Heritage Program in FWD for each vernal pool to be enrolled as an ESTA (See Appendix S2 – Vernal Pool Survey Form). Mark Ferguson (241-3667); 103 South Main Street, 10 South, Waterbury, VT 05671-0501; mark.ferguson@state.vt.us

- Location map clearly showing the location of the UVA property involved.
- Orthophoto base map or GIS shapefile accurately identifying the location of the vernal pool and the location of surrounding forest with management proposed to protect the pool.
- Vernal Pool Survey Form (April 2009). This includes information on landowner, surveyor, physical and hydrologic aspects of the pool, a description of the vernal pool, documentation of amphibian breeding, pool ranking, and proposed management of the vernal pool and surrounding forest to be included in the UVA plan.
- Photos of the vernal pool and egg masses with calendar dates indicated.
- Amphibian breeding habitat will need to be documented when breeding adults or egg masses are present (typically April-May).

Rare Plant or Animal Species – information to be submitted to Nongame and Natural Heritage Program in FWD for each rare species and its habitat to be enrolled as an ESTA (See Appendix S3 – Rare Plant Form and Appendix S4 – Rare Animal Form). Plants: Bob Popp (476-0127); 5 Perry Street, Suite 40, Barre, VT 05641-4266; bob.popp@state.vt.us. Animals: Mark Ferguson (241-3667)

- Location map clearly showing the location of the UVA property involved.
- Orthophoto base map or GIS shapefile accurately identifying the boundary of the rare species population on the property (for small populations, these may be mapped as points). This map should also identify the area where special management is proposed to protect the species and its habitat.
- Rare Plant or Rare Animal Survey Form (April 2009). This includes information on landowner, surveyor, physical aspects of the site, a description of the population's health and vigor, ranking, and description of the proposed management to protect the rare species that is to be included in the UVA plan.
- Photo of rare plant (and animal if possible).
- Specimens of rare plants may be required for some species, but should not be collected for Threatened or Endangered species without prior consultation with Bob Popp.